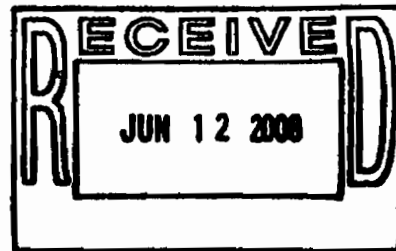




EI-7578

Bureau of Forestry

June 6, 2008



Ms. Sandy Basehore
Skelly & Loy, Inc.
2601 North Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Review, PNDI Number	19648
RJ Corman Railroad Co., Proposed Beech Creek Branch Line Construction and Operation between Wallacetown & Gorton PA (Finance Docket No. 35116)	
Clearfield & Centre Counties	

Dear Ms. Basehore,

This responds to your request for information on species of special concern within the area under evaluation for this project. We screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources of special concern under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' responsibility, which includes plants, natural communities, terrestrial invertebrates and geologic features only.

PNDI records indicate that species and communities of special concern under DCNR's jurisdiction are known to occur in the vicinity of the above-mentioned project. Please see the attached list for known species found in the vicinity of the project area. If any earth disturbance is planned or more detailed project information becomes available, please coordinate with our office for further review of potential impacts to the attached species list, as a survey may be requested.

Also, the letter from Surface Transportation Board dated April 14, 2008, states that there may be additional proposed industrial developments associated with this project. Once more information is available on these potential developments, please submit them to our office for review as well. The species of special concern given in the attached list apply only to the proposed rail line construction.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is good for one (1) year from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on-site. A field survey of any site may reveal previously unreported populations. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This finding applies to impacts to plants, natural communities, terrestrial invertebrates and geologic features only. To complete your review of state and federally-listed species of special concern, please be sure the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the PA Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission has been contacted regarding this project either directly or by performing a search with the online PNDI ER Tool found at www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us.

Rebecca H. Bowen

Rebecca H. Bowen, Environmental Review Specialist, PNHP

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Stewardship

Partnership

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Plants of Special Concern

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Status	Proposed Status	Habitat	Flowering time
<i>Sparganium angrocladum</i>	Branching Bur-reed	PA Endangered	PA Endangered	wet meadows, swales, stream banks and shallow water	fruit July-Sept
<i>Prunus alleghaniensis</i>	Alleghany Plum	Not Protected	PA Threatened	rocky bluffs, shale barrens, roadsides and floodplains	flower April-early June, frt. Aug.
<i>Polygonum careyi</i>	Pinkweed, Carey's smartweed	PA Endangered	PA Endangered	sandy, open woodlands and disturbed places, particularly after fire	summer and early fall
<i>Stellaria borealis</i>	Mountain starwort	Not Protected	Tentatively Undetermined	springy wooded slopes, sphagnous swamps and streams	Fl. May-Aug
<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i>	Creeping Snowberry	PA Rare	PA Rare	wet woods and bogs	flower June, fruit Sept
<i>Lonicera villosa</i>	Mountain fly honeysuckle	PA Endangered	PA Endangered	bogs, swamps and wet thickets	flowers May, fruits July

These species of special concern are known in the vicinity of the rail line project.